

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 11476 211016Z

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ACTION DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 OES-06 EB-07 L-03 SSO-00

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O R 210930Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6609

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS MOSCOW 11476

DEPT PLEASE PASS DOT FOR ALLEN TPI-42

DEPT PLEASE PASS COMMERCE FOR MARAD/PITKIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, ETRN, US, UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT: MARITIME PANEL FOUR

(05.0404): VISIT OF SOVDEL TO MORMACSTAR IN ODESSA

REF: STATE 165669, ALLEN/EMBOFF TELCON OF 20 JULY

1. EMBOFF 21 JULY CONTACTED ISHCHENKO, WHO SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED THAT SOVIET DELEGATION IS ALREADY IN ODESSA AND IN CONTACT WITH SHIP'S CAPTAIN, VISITS ARE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE 21 JULY AND 22 JULY. RE: PROBLEMS WITH VOICE CIRCUIT AND PRESENCE OF MR. KELLEY, ISHCHENKO SAID THAT MEMBERS OF SOVIET DELEGATION WILL BE QUITE HAPPY TO SEE THAT PART WHICH IS OPERATIVE (TELEX LINK, ETC), AND THAT DELEGATION IS COMPOSED OF SOVIET OFFICIALS FROM MANY SOVIET CITIES, SO THAT RECONSTITUTING DELEGATION AT LATER DATE WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE. EMBOFF GAINED IMPRESSION THAT SOVIETS WOULD BE PLEASED AT LATER DATE TO RECEIVE TECHNICAL DATA (REFTEL), EITHER SENT OR BROUGHT BY COMSAT REP.

2. EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER PRESS HAD BEEN INVITED TO EVENT, AND ISHCHENKO REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW BUT WOULD ADVISE IF THIS IS INDEED THE CASE.

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3. COMMENT: REFTEL, THE LETTER FROM WHICH WAS DELIVERED 6

JULY TO DUBCHAK WITH COPIES TO BABYNIN, ATSEROV, AND ISHCHENKO, REQUESTED THAT SOVIETS CONTACT SHIP CAPTAIN FOR ARRANGEMENT ON VISIT DATE, WHICH THEY APPARENTLY DID. REFTEL ASKED REPLY TO PITKIN UNDER TWO CONDITIONS: CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP OF SOVDEL, OR BELIEF THAT COMSAT PRESENCE FOR VISIT HELPFUL. SOVDEL IS APPARENTLY INTACT (ISHCHENKO SAID THAT IT HAD VISITED OTHER CITIES), AND ISHCHENKO'S 21 JULY RESPONSE APPARENTLY MEANS SOVIETS WERE NOT CONCERNED OVER PRESENCE OF COMSAT REP AT DEMONSTRATION (TIMING WAS APPARENTLY THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR). WHEN EVEN NEGATIVE REPLY IS SOUGHT, DOT AND MARAD MAY WISH TO MAKE THAT SPECIFICALLY CLEAR TO SOVIETS (E.G., "PLEASE ADVISE OUR EMBASSY WHETHER OR NOT...") SO THAT EVEN DURING THE PRESS OF SUMMER ACTIVITIES, THEY WILL RECOGNIZE NECESSITY OF PROMPT RESPONSE. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ITINERARY, SHIPS, MARINE TRANSPORTATION, AGREEMENTS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW11476
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760280-0489
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760737/aaaabgep.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DOTE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 165669
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <16 NOV 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-USSR TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT: MARITIME PANEL FOUR (05.0404): VISIT OF SOVDEL TO MORMACSTAR IN ODESSA
TAGS: TGEN, ETRN, US, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006